

BOOK REVIEW

RICHARD UVA, JOSEPH NEAL and JOSEPH DITOMASO. 1997. **Weeds of the Northeast**. (ISBN 0-8014-3391-6 (hbk); ISBN 0-8014-8334-4 (pbk)). Cornell University Press, Sage House, 512 E State Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. \$29.95, 397 pp, color photographs.

This book contains practical keys, shortcut identification tables, and descriptions for 299 common agricultural weeds in the area bounded by southeastern Canada, Virginia, and Wisconsin. For each species, the description consists of common name, scientific name, important common name synonyms or taxonomic synonyms, a general description, propagation/phenology, seedling description, mature plant description (very brief), roots and underground structures, flowers and fruit (when applicable), post senescence characteristics, habitat, distribution and similar species. On the facing page for each of these descriptions are lovely color photographs of the habit, a line drawing of a drawing and/or photo of the inflorescence or flower (or other reproductive structure for non-angiospermous plants), stem or trunk, and seeds. There are also several comparison tables in the back of the book with salient features of closely related or similar-looking species, and a fold-out grass identification table. A vegetative key runs from page 9 to page 17, and while not dichotomous, seems fairly easy to use.

While not exhaustive, and missing one of my favorite roadside weeds, *Antennaria* (Asteraceae), it is a wonderful pocket guide for the amateur nature enthusiast, gardeners, farmers, and others interested in weeds. I also thought it strange Andrew F. Senesac is an author on the inside back cover, but not on the front cover, nor on the title page. The high quality of the photos and illustrations, up-to-date nomenclature, glossary, index and other features make this book attractive, user-friendly and worth buying. I certainly recommend it to anyone as a supplemental book, especially for use in poison control centers and other places where people bring in weeds that either their children or pets have eaten.—*John J. Pipoly III*